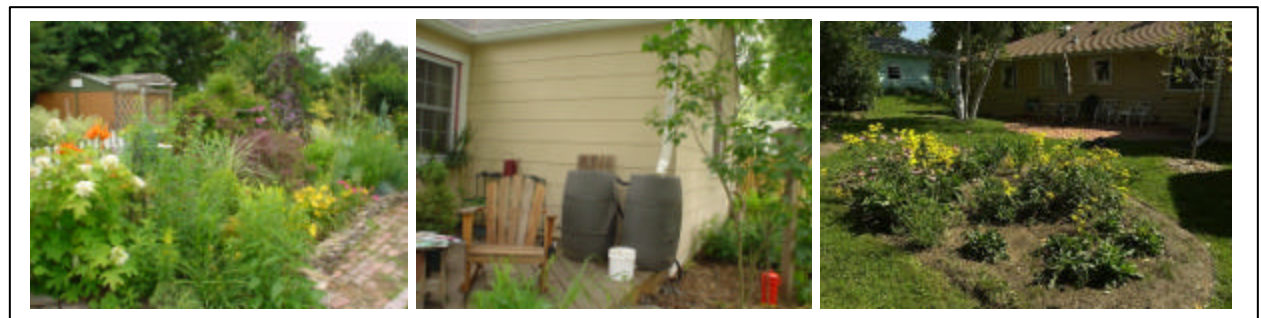


Fifth Annual *Watershed-friendly Garden Tour*

Sunday, June 3rd, 1 PM – 5 PM

Tour local properties that feature watershed-friendly elements, such as cisterns, rain barrels, rain gardens, backyard wildlife habitats, and native species. Talk with local residents about their experience making their garden more watershed-friendly!



*General directions are included from a major intersection near each location, but please refer to a map. Properties marked with a * are certified with the National Wildlife Federation as a wildlife habitat.*

Alexandria Sites

These two homes are both on Alexandria Avenue. From 395, take Glebe Rd. south. Turn right on Mt. Vernon Avenue, proceed about a mile, and turn left on Alexandria Avenue to #409. To get to 114 W. Alexandria, proceed west from #409 E. Alexandria Ave, across Mt. Vernon Ave and Commonwealth Ave, to #114 W. Alexandria Ave.

- ❖ **409 East Alexandria Avenue, Alexandria, VA.** Visit a City Council member's home, featuring three rain barrels, a grass driveway, a compost area, a large rain garden, and extensive use of water loving plants to reduce water run-off into nearby storm sewers.
- ❖ **114 West Alexandria Avenue, Alexandria, VA.** This home features a brick walkway set in sand to filter rainwater, a rain garden that receives drainage from the sump pump, channels to direct drainage planted areas, and a woodland environment with extensive use of native plants.

From I-395, exit Shirlington/Quaker onto Quaker Lane. At the first light on Quaker, turn left onto Preston Road. Follow Preston to Valley Drive and turn right on Gunston Road. Go half-way up the hill till you see a white retaining wall on the right. The condominium is the second building from the street.

- ❖ **Parkfairfax Condominium, 3478 Gunston Rd., Alexandria, VA.** This unit features demonstration gardens created to show native plants used in small spaces and in various conditions for sun and moisture. Several small gardens include a shady-slope garden, a sunny-slope garden, a "mini" rain garden (preventing ponding on a sidewalk after storms), and a woodland edge garden.

From I-395, take the VA-236 E/DUKE ST exit (Number 3A). The library is on the left side about a mile from the exit ramp.

- ❖ **Charles Beatley Library, 5005 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA.** The Charles E. Beatley, Jr. Central Library has five bioretention areas in its parking lot. These areas treat runoff from the parking lot as well as a portion of the runoff from the roof. There is an additional bioretention area along the West side of the building, behind the reading garden. This area treats runoff from the remainder of the roof and from the cement garden patio. The west side bioretention area is set back against a stream buffer and blends well with its surroundings.

Arlington Sites

From the intersection of King St./Rt. 7 and S. Walter Reed Drive, turn right into the third parking lot on the right (building numbers 2647 - 2657 S. Walter Reed Dr.) Parking is available in the lot. Walk through the courtyard and behind unit numbers 2655 - 2657.

- ❖ **The Arlington Condominium, 2655 S. Walter Reed Drive, Arlington, VA.** This condominium features two rain gardens and a native plant restoration* on a hillside, featuring over fifty species of native plants and twenty fern species. There are also bird friendly gardens and rain barrels.

The next location is off of S. Glebe Rd. From The Arlington Condominium, go north on S. Walter Reed Drive and make a left onto S. 18th St and continue to the intersection with S. Pollard.

- ❖ **1800 S. Pollard St., Arlington, VA.** Compost areas, rain barrels, swale, rain gardens, wildlife habitat*, wildlife-friendly native plantings.

Take Walter Reed Drive north past Glebe Road. Turn right on 16th Street S.

- ❖ **NEW! SELF GUIDED SITE. Walter Reed Community Center, 2909 16th St. South.** This community center that was completed in May, 2006 includes an 18,000 square foot green roof on a pitched roof, so it can be viewed from the ground. There is also a bioretention area along one side of the parking lot to filter runoff from the parking lot. The building is a green building, including energy efficient and water efficient appliances, and recycled or sustainable building materials. The community center is open from 9 AM – 2 PM on Sundays.

The next three sites are located near each other. Going north on Glebe Rd, make a right onto Pershing Dr. Make a right on N. Jackson St to reach 311 N. Jackson St. To reach 515 N. Jackson St., go north on N. Jackson St, crossing Pershing Drive.

- ❖ **NEW! 311 N. Jackson St., Arlington, VA.** Visit the home of a County Board member. His wildlife habitat* garden features a pond in the front yard surrounded by a rock garden and perennial plants. A nearby azalea bed sits under a dogwood tree. The backyard has evolved from grass to 100% County-delivered bark mulch to prevent erosion and to provide a non-destructible play area for two dogs.
- ❖ **515 N. Jackson St., Arlington, VA.** This wildlife habitat* includes a variety of native plants on all four sides of the house. An ephemeral stream borders a section of the back plant beds, serving as an attractive drainage feature. The yard has full sun, partially shaded, and shaded areas.

From 515 N. Jackson St, go north on N. Jackson and make a right on 6th St. North. Make a left on N. Ivy St. The house is peach with blue shutters.

- ❖ **NEW! 720 N. Ivy St., Arlington, VA.** Beginning rain garden construction, rain barrels, rain chains, compost-filled catch basin, grading for water retention (including sump discharge), permeable walk and driveway surfaces under construction, absorptive plantings, and a wildlife habitat*.

Falls Church Sites

Take E. Broad St toward Seven Corners. Turn left on Buxton Rd and take first left onto Tyson Dr.

- ❖ **NEW! 205 Tyson Dr., Falls Church, VA.** This property features an elegant carriage driveway. Five of the roof downspouts are piped directly to a rain garden and a rain barrel collects additional water for garden watering. Lawn is slowly being replaced with mulch and garden areas featuring native plants. Backyard wildlife habitat*.

For this site, park in the Thomas Jefferson Elementary School (601 S. Oak Street) parking lot. From W. Broad St. heading west, turn left on S. Oak St. Turn left on Seaton Lane and at the three-way stop bear left. Take a left into the parking lot. Walk down the Reagan Valley Stream Trail (a watershed friendly trail created by the TJ School Ecology Club) and cross Tripps Run.

- ❖ **NEW! Hamlett/Rees Tract Park, Falls Church, VA.** Falls Church's newest park features a wooded floodplain area undergoing extensive invasive plant removal and a stream bank plant restoration project in progress.

From the intersection of Broad St. and Washington St., head north on N. Washington St., turn left on Great Falls St., right on Dorchester Rd. and left on Langston Lane.

- ❖ **604 Langston Lane, Falls Church, VA.** This site has two cisterns, a driveway made of porous pavers, a metal roof, and a yard makeover that includes rain gardens, butterfly garden, native plants. Backyard wildlife habitat*.

From the intersection of Broad St. and Washington St., head west on W. Broad St., turn right on N. Virginia St., left on Park Ave. and first right on N. Virginia.

- ❖ **304 N. Virginia Avenue, Falls Church, VA.** This yard is beautifully landscaped with native plants. Home owners removed a carpet of dense English Ivy to create a watershed friendly landscape. Backyard wildlife habitat*.

Fairfax County Sites

From I-495: Take Exit 52B (Little River Turnpike East.) Travel 3.5 miles. Turn left on Braddock Rd. Drive 0.2 miles and turn right onto Witch Hazel Rd. From I-395: Take Exit 3B (Little River Turnpike West.) Travel 1.25 miles. Turn right on Braddock Rd. Drive 0.2 miles and turn right onto Witch Hazel Rd.

- ❖ **Green Springs Garden Park, 4603 Green Spring Rd. Alexandria, VA.** This 28-acre Fairfax County park is a public garden and National Historic site. More than 20 demonstration gardens include an organic kitchen garden with a rain barrel, a native plant garden, a swale garden designed to slow runoff, a Waterwise Garden that groups together plants with low irrigation needs, and a wildlife garden maintained by the Green Spring Master Gardeners.

From I-495: Take Exit 50 (Arlington Boulevard/VA-50 West) Travel 1 mile. Turn right on Prosperity Boulevard. Drive ½ mile and turn left onto Lee Highway/US-29. Turn left at Fire Station 30/Providence Supervisor's Office. Features are located in the parking lot behind the building.

- ❖ **NEW! SELF-GUIDED SITE. Providence Supervisor's Office/Fire Station 30, 8739 Lee Highway, Fairfax, VA.** Permeable pavers, a rain garden in a parking median and a green roof are located at this fire station/office building. Self-guided tours only at this location.

From 95 South, take the Occoquan exit. Go North on 123 (Ox Road). Make a left at Hampton Road. Make a right at Running Fox Court.

- ❖ **NEW! 8610 Running Fox Court, Fairfax Station, VA.** The five-acre garden is set in a mature forest of oak, poplar, hemlocks, redbuds, mountain laurel and dogwoods. It is the backdrop for flowering cherry trees, azaleas, rhododendrons, viburnum, and other trees and shrubs. Perennial beds and ponds were also added to create beauty as well as provide water, food and shelter for birds and animals.

The next three sites are located near each other. From 66: Exit Nutley St. SW/VA -243 N via exit 62 toward Vienna. Turn right onto Maple Avenue West / VA – 123 N. Turn left onto Beulah Road NE / VA -675. The school will be in ¾ mile on your right.

- ❖ **NEW! Wolfttrap Elementary School**, 1903 Beulah Road, Vienna, VA. Highlights of this schoolyard habitat* include a woodland path (with over 120 new native tree plantings), a bluebird trail, small bog gardens, a hillside wildflower meadow, a student-constructed rain barrel in the school's courtyard, and assorted classroom gardens.

Turn left onto Beulah Road NE / VA-675. Then, turn left onto Meadowlark Gardens Ct.

- ❖ **Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna, VA.** Participants of the watershed-friendly garden tour should proceed to the Visitor's Center and ask for Keith Tomlinson, who will be guiding tours. Meadowlark Botanical Gardens showcases a collection of native plant species called the Potomac Valley Collection. The collection was developed to foster conservation of native plants and their habitats through public education and display. A rain garden is also present along the perimeter walking path.

Turn left onto Beulah Road NE / VA-675 and travel over the Dulles Toll Road. Turn left on Leesburg Pike/VA-7. Turn right on Colvin Run Road/VA-743. Turn right on Walker Road/VA-681. Turn left on Beach Mill Road/VA-603. Proceed past 10106 Beach Mill and turn right on Falcon Ridge Rd and park on the street. To visit the property, walk up the first driveway on the right on Falcon Ridge to its end. Follow the signs through a gate to visit the garden.

- ❖ **NEW! 10106 Beach Mill Road, Great Falls, VA 22066.** Wildlife habitat garden* includes many species of woodland perennials and shrubs. A pond, accented by a small waterfall, provides a haven for frogs and dragonflies.

General Tour Information: A \$5 donation is suggested with proceeds to benefit Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment (ACE's) local conservation efforts. Please pay your donation at the first site you visit. This event is sponsored by ACE, Arlington County, Fairfax County, the City of Alexandria, the City of Falls Church, and the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District. Please call ACE at 703-228-6427 if you need more information about the tour.

Watershed Friendly and Wildlife Habitat Garden Directory - search this free online resource by location and feature, plus find properties in your own neighborhood.
<http://www.arlingtonenvironment.org/directory>

- Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment <http://www.arlingtonenvironment.org>
- Arlington County <http://www.arlingtonva.us>
- City of Alexandria <http://www.alexandriava.gov>
- City of Falls Church <http://www.fallschurchva.gov>
- Fairfax County <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov>
- Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/nvswcd/>



Northern Virginia
Soil and Water Conservation District



Arlingtonians for a
Clean Environment

